

We claim:

1. A process for the continuous preparation of THF by reaction
5 of a 1,4-butanediol-containing reaction mixture over a heteropolyacid catalyst which has not been predried, wherein the reaction mixture comprises less than 1 ppm of basic nitrogen components and 2-(4-hydroxybutoxy)tetrahydrofuran.
- 10 2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture comprises polytetrahydrofuran and/or its monoacetates or diacetates.
3. A process as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein
15 less than 1% by weight of heteropolyacid, based on the reaction mixture, is added.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the
20 reaction is carried out at from 80 to 300°C.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the
reaction is carried out in a pressure range from 0.5 to 10 bar.
- 25 6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the reaction mixture is passed over a cation exchanger after the activity decreases.

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